

Application No.: 09/773,607

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Docket No.: 449122001900

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-6 are pending. Claim 1 has been canceled and claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of its base claim, claim 1. Claims 3, 4 and 6 have been amended to change their dependency from claim 1 to claim 2. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 3-8 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burmeister et al., U.S. Patent 6,027,361 in view of McGonigal et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,136,628. In view of the foregoing amendments, this rejection is moot. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or fees due in connection with this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **449122001900**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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